(iii) The Directorate General of Shipping has also given wide publicity in leading newspapers with regard o the scheme of recruitment through the registered Recruitment and Placement Shipping Agents for employment in the marine sector.

(iv) A new course module has been formulated to sensitize the trainees with regard to the rights of seafarers as laid down under the Merchant Shipping (Recruitment and Placement) Rules, 2005 in all the Pre-sea Training Institutes.

(v) The matter has also been taken up with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) with regard to consolidating the international conventions with regard to shipping casualties and making the law stringent to bring around the non-responsible flag states to carry out their responsibility.

(vi) MS Notice No. 5-A has been issued by the Director General of Shipping. This notice requires mandatory reporting and plan of action to deal with causalities involving Indian seafarers on foreign flag ships.

Upgrading the Ports

4683. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore and Hong Kong Ports alone handle more traffic and freight than all the Indian Ports put together;

(b) whether it is a fact that if India wants to intensify the process of integration with the global economy and relies on trade to drive growth, ports would be a critical link in the chain;

(c) if so, the initiative taken to convert the 10 minor ports in India to the rank of Major Ports; and

(d) the progress of action taken in each minor port?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) As per information available, Port of Singapore or

Port of Hong Kong do not individually handle more traffic than all the Indian Ports put together.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Non-Major Ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments. There is no proposal under consideration to convert ten minor (Non-Major) ports to the rank of Major Ports.

National Highways in Jharkhand

4684. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of all the National Highways in Jharkhand;

(b) those whose length is hardly 3 metres wide;

(c) by when these National Highways would be at least $7^1/_2$ metres wide;

(d) by when Government propose to make National Highways in Jharkhand to four lanes; and

(e) the details of each National Highway of Jharkhand with length and width?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MUNISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Length of the National Highways in Jharkhand is at present about 1844 km.

(b) About 149 km. length of National Highways is single lane.

(c) Widening of single lane and intermediate lane NHs to two lanes is being taken up in phases and their completion depends upon availability of funds and *inter-se* priority of works.

(d) Widening of entire National highway network in Jharkhand to 4-lane is not proposed.

(e) The details are given in Statement.